



September 3, 2004

## **Federal charges filed in seizure of 34 kilograms of cocaine**

Federal cocaine-trafficking charges have been filed against **Jose Cabreja**, and **Hector Santana**, both of Providence, who were arrested by federal and state narcotics agents on August 15, when agents seized 34 kilograms of cocaine from a car and a storage facility in Warwick.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Colonel Steven M. Pare, Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, and Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, jointly announced a federal complaint that was filed on August 30. The defendants appeared yesterday before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin, who ordered them detained.

The complaint charges Cabreja, 23, of 239 Union Avenue, and Santana, 24, of 104 Peace Street (First Floor), with conspiracy and possessing with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. According to a State Police affidavit supporting the complaint, detectives and agents of the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force** began an investigation after receiving information that a man living at 104 Peace Street was dealing in large quantities of cocaine. The investigation developed information that a shipment of cocaine from Texas was expected during the weekend of August 14 and would be delivered to a self-storage facility in Warwick.

On August 15, according to the affidavit, detectives observed a BMW SUV, driven by a man later identified as Cabreja, arrive at the storage facility. About 20 minutes later, agents saw

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two Nissan Maximas, one driven by Cabreja, the other by Santana, leave the storage facility. Detectives stopped both cars at different locations and detained the drivers. They linked Santana to a unit of the storage facility and, executing a state-authorized search warrant, seized 24, one-kilogram packages of cocaine from hidden compartments in the SUV, which was parked in the storage unit.

From the blue Nissan Maxima that Cabreja was driving, detectives seized ten, one-kilogram packages of cocaine that were hidden in secret compartments, according to the affidavit. They later seized \$22,980 from the first floor apartment at 104 Peace Street, Providence, where Santana lived.

During the initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Martin, Santana requested a preliminary examination of the charges against him, which Magistrate Judge Martin scheduled for September 9. Cabreja waived his right to a preliminary examination. Both defendants were returned to the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions, where they had been held since their arrest.

The charges are felonies and are therefore subject to review by a grand jury. A complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

**Rhode Island State Police** and the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force** investigated the case. The Task Force is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting the federal case. State charges are also pending against Santana and Cabreja.

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